Equal Rights

VOL. XVIII, No. 4
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 27, 1932

Courtesy of the Washington Post

Women Honor Susan B. Anthony

Members of the National Woman's Party commemorated the one hundred and twelfth anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony by placing a wreath at the foot of her statue in the Capitol on February 15. Margarita Robles de Mendoza, Mexican representative on the Inter-American Commission of Women, is seen placing the wreath.

Equal Rights

OFFICIAL ORGAN
of the
National Woman's Party
Capitol Hill,
Washington, D. C.
Phone, Lincoln 1366
Published Weekly
at 19 West Chase Street,
Baltimore, Md.
Phone, Vernon 3279

Edith Houghton Hooker . . . Editor
Ruby A. Black . . . Managing Editor
Dora G. Ogle . . . Business Manager

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

Nina E. Allender	Ada Davenport Kendall
Zoe Beckley	Alma Lutz
Elaine Sterne Carrington	Hazel MacKaye
Lucia Chamberlain	Edna St. Vincent Millay
Phyllis Duganne	Ruth Pickering
Ernestine Evans	Alice Rohe
Rose Feld	Maryse Rutledge
Zona Gale	Miriam Finn Scott
Helen Davenport Gibbons	Doris Stevens
Rebecca Hourwich	Sophie Treadwell
Ruth Hale	Brenda Ueland
Inez Haynes Irwin	Mary Winsor

Entered as second-class matter at Postoffice, Baltimore, Md., under Act March 3, 1879.

Subscription, $2.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $2.50

OFFICERS OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

President, Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, N. Y.
Chairman National Council, Mrs. Harvey Wiley, D. C.
Vice-Chairmen,
Gail Laughlin, Me.
Florence Bayard Hilles, Del.
Anita Pollitzer, S. C.
Secretary, Mrs. Dwight Clark, D. C.
Treasurer, Laura Berrien, D. C.
Congressional Chairman, Maud Younger, Cal.
Director of National Activities, Muna Lee.
Parliamentarian, Emma Fox, Mich.

Edith Alnge, N. Y.	Burnita S. Matthews, Miss.
Nina E. Allender, D. C.	Dora G. Ogle, Md.
Mrs. John W. Brannan, N. Y.	Alice Paul, N. J.
Mrs. Merritt O. Chance, D. C.	Sarah Pell, N. Y.
Mrs. Isaac H. Dixon, Md.	Elizabeth Selden Rogers, N.Y.
Bertha W. Fowler, Colo.	Jane Norman Smith, N. Y.
Elsie Hill, Conn.	A. Marguerite Smith, Mass.
Inez Haynes Irwin, N. Y.	Doris Stevens, N. Y.
Edith Houghton Hooker, Md.	Mrs. John Jay White, N. Y.
Elizabeth T. Kent, Calif.	Margaret Whittemore, Calif.
Ruth Vandeer Litt, N. Y.	Mrs. Valentine Winters, Ohio
Alma Lutz, N. Dak.	Maud Younger, Calif.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

Annual Dues	$10.00
Associate Members	$1.00
Subscribing Members	$3.00
Founders	$100.00
Life Members	$1,000.00
Endowers	$5,000.00
Sustainers	$5,000.00

OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929, by Senator Gerald P. Nye, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House January 11, 1932, by Representative Louis Ludlow, Indiana.

We Congratulate Mme. Valbot Too

THE comment of life on current social-economic movements is much more interesting than comment flowing from the point of a pen. We, therefore, in lieu of editorializing on militancy as a successful method of winning the vote reprint the following article which appeared in the February issue of the *International Women's News* under the caption, "A Feminist":

On the 14th of January Madame Jane Valbot made a demonstration in the Senate in favor of votes for French women. The following is a translation of the account which appeared in *L'Oeuvre:*

"Yesterday the Senate was proceeding peacefully with its business. It was towards four o'clock. Suddenly a lady sitting in the vice-president's gallery rose and said:

"'Mr. President, Members of the Senate, I remind you, very respectfully, that we have been waiting for a long time for the question of votes for women to come up for discussion.

"'We trust that this session will not end without its being discussed.'

"Having spoken, amid complete silence, with perfect calm Madame Jane Valbot sat down. Applause broke out. Cries of 'She is right! She is right!' were heard. One Senator called out, 'Come to the rostrum!' to which Mme. Valbot replied, 'I should like to!'

"But the policeman had other ideas, and with the greatest politeness he asked Mme. Valbot to follow him to the commissary's office, which she did, first releasing a cloud of little many-colored paper streamers which read: 'In order to abolish war women must have the vote.' 'In order to secure equality of salaries, women must have the vote.' 'In order to lower the cost of living, women must have the vote.'

"In the commissary's office this short dialogue took place:

"'This is intolerable,' said the commissary.

"'Indeed, Mr. Commissary, it is intolerable that women have not got the vote!'

"'I meant that it was intolerable that women should come and make demonstrations in the Senate!'

"'Do you know any better way?'

"The dialogue continued for a minute or two on these lines, and then the Commissary politely showed Mme. Valbot out."

In a letter to the president of the Alliance Mme. Valbot tells how, since 1928, she has worn on her hat a ribbon bearing the inscription, "La française doit voter." At first, she says, it cost her an effort to do so, but "I so quickly became used to it that I now no longer remember when I am out that I am carrying our claims *very high,* and I am surprised when people say, 'I agree with you, madame.' I hope to form a group of women of the same mind and to follow the example of those courageous English women who went ahead without fear of ridicule, and in the end obtained the right to vote for all."

We (the International Suffrage Alliance) congratulate Mme. Valbot heartily on her courage and initiative.

Mars versus Motherhood

WITH war clouds hanging in the East, where the new day rises, the importance of elevating the peace-loving sex to a position of augmented power in world affairs becomes daily more apparent. Unless American women are to pay again the dreadful tribute to Mars that the past has intermittently required of them, they must organize and unify their demand for an equal place with men in the councils of the nation.

It is not enough to believe in Equal Rights, nor to work individually for Equal Rights; women in all parts of the country must unite upon a program of action designed to make Equal Rights a reality.

Women everywhere would feel infinitely more secure in this crisis if 50 per cent. of the members of Congress were of the peaceable sex.

Fighting has always been the business of men and peace-making the business of women. Even in the jungle the female of the species fights only to protect her young, while the male seizes every opportunity to exhibit his prowess. In the jungle of present-day life, which presumes to the title of civilization, the human female needs to fight, and fight now, if she is to protect her offspring in the future. Equal Rights or internecine war between the young men of the nations, that is the proposition motherhood faces today.

Not faith, but the power of women to organize and unify their strength will tip the balance.

Death Claims Valiant Feminist

LEGARE HILL OBEAR, Feminist, died at her home in Washington, D. C., on February 9. She was a life-long worker for Equal Rights between men and women and was chairman of the Georgia State Branch of the National Woman's Party at the time of her death. At the beginning of a long illness which proved fatal, she was in Georgia working for equal opportunity for the women mill workers of Georgia, when their chance to work was threatened by proposed laws prohibiting women from working at night.

Born in Madison, Georgia, Mrs. Obear was a daughter of the late Colonel John Bowles, U. S. A., of Kentucky, and a grand-daughter of former Senator Joshua Hill of Georgia. In her youth she was a famous Georgia beauty. She attended Shorter and Lucy Cobb Colleges, the New England Conservatory of Music at Boston and the Corcoran Art School in Washington, D. C.

Last season she served as international hospitality chairman for the National Woman's Party, receiving at Alva Belmont House Feminists from all parts of the world.

She was instrumental in obtaining the passage, in 1930, of a law in Georgia eliminating discriminations against women in the inheritance laws. She also was active in the pasage of a law in the District of Columbia allowing women to serve on juries, and had served on a panel in Washington.

In 1929 she was delegate to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Conference at Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Besides her husband, Colonel William Gray Obear, Sr., she is survived by three children, Julia Obear, William Gray Obear, Jr., and Legare Obear.

A Real Merit System, Apparently

PHILADELPHIA has a real merit system in its Civil Service, in the opinion of City Solicitor Smyth. The City Council's finance committee adopted an amendment to the 1932 city budget providing that married women could be discharged by administrative officials after April 1, despite the Civil Service system, if, in the opinion of the administrative officials, they were not dependent for their support upon their jobs.

City Solicitor Smyth ruled that such a provision would be in violation of the merit system, and added, "If enacted, the measure would be struck down by the courts as an unreasonable and discriminative regulation of civic employment."

The Legal Status Committee of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters had protested against the measure on the grounds that it violates the merit system and is a sex discrimination.

The City Solicitor issued his ruling on February 10.

Under date of February 2, an anonymous letter signed "Miss Equality" urged the National Woman's Party to work against the employment of married women, insisting that unmarried women cannot get either jobs or husbands while the married woman has an equal chance at a job, and if she fails to get it, can depend upon her husband. The writer insisted that married women are preferred in many places and charged that they accept less money than unmarried women can accept.

The writer describes herself as 41 years old, single, a competent stenographer, with a dependent mother to support and a home to pay for. She says she is unemployed, and that her age is against her "even though I have a very youthful appearance."

Instead of urging the National Woman's Party to work for inequality, instead of for the equality which it is the party's aim to achieve, "Miss Equality" should join the National Woman's Party's campaign for absolute equality between men and women. When that is achieved, age and marital condition will no more affect a woman's chance to get a job than it affects a man's. "Miss Equality" also reports that her cousin, 50 years old, has been unemployed for two years, and that her age is against her.

Perhaps "Miss Equality" can best be answered by Elsie Robinson, newspaper columnist, who in answer to a somewhat similar letter, coming from a very young stenographer, wrote as follows:

"But suppose a girl had to stop working if she fell in love and married?

"What would happen, then, to her ambition? How would that affect her standing in the business world?

"How would it affect a man's standing?

"He wouldn't have any standing, under those conditions. He'd remain a transient worker—in the office-boy class. It takes time and money to train workers and Big Business doesn't groom people for important positions if it knows that they will step out just when they are getting good.

"That's what would happen to the man worker if he retired when he married, and that is what would happen to the woman worker—to all women workers—if retirement on marriage were compulsory.

"At present some of our most serious and valuable work is performed by women. But no woman would have a chance to do serious or valuable work if a law were passed against the married woman worker. For no employer could tell when a woman might marry. Therefore no employer could bank on a woman worker's permanency—or would bother to train her for a larger program . . . or trust her with heavy responsibility.

"If the married woman is not permitted to work, no woman worker will be taken seriously.

"Is that a happy solution for the working woman's problem?"

It is curious that women cannot see that the basic difficulty is discrimination against women. The married women complain that married women are discriminated against. The single women complain that unmarried women are discriminated against. The young women complain that youth is discriminated against. The old women, even the women "in the prime of life," complain that age is discriminated against. Hardly a day passes that a complaint does not come to this writer's attention on one of these scores.

The crux of the situation is that as long as women, as a sex, are unequal in legal, economic, and social status with men, marriage or singleness, age or youth, will be used as the excuse for a discrimination that is really a sex discrimination. If married women want equal opportunity with single women, if single women want equal opportunity with married women, if the young want equal opportunity with the mature, if the middle-aged want equal opportunity with the young, they must first insist upon equality between the sexes—they must see that women have equal opportunity with men.

And if women, married or single, old or young, are not to undercut men—and one another—in salaries and wages, they must have the security and the opportunity that come from equality.

For even if employers can be found—as doubtless they can—who discriminate against married women, or single women, or young women, or old women, it is fundamentally because in the minds of those employers, and in their emotions, is a feeling, an idea, that women are somehow not persons in the economic world, but a special class. Once the basic discrimination is eliminated, the rest will be easy.

Woman's Place in Architecture

"MODERN archritecture needs the feminine touch," said Dean E. Raymond Bossange of the New York University College of Fine Arts some months ago when planning a new architectural course.

That sounds Feministic enough. But, alas, further revelations concerning the new course disclose any number of discriminatory observations on Dean Bossange's part.

Heretofore few schools of architecture have admitted women to their classes, Dean Bossange said, and the number of women who are now practicing architects in this country is probably smaller than in any other profession.

"I am convinved that women properly trained could design and execute many types of small buildings very well, and very few women are doing this at the present time," Dean Bossange said. "It is perfectly evident that women, because of their good taste, imagination and ingenuity and intimate knowledge of home life certainly have something to contribute to architecture."

Dean Bossange declared that the reason so few women had taken up architecture was because there had never been a course adapted to their special needs. Women entering existing architectural classes have been forced to adapt themselves to masculine programs of instruction.

"I have had opportunities to watch the work of women students in several architectural schools which admit them," the dean said. "While a few completed the courses because of unusual ability and a few more because of personal popularity which resulted in their receiving much assistance from fellow-students, the average woman student could not meet the requirements.

"Advanced design, calling for the solution of large problems such as those given in Class A of the Beaux-Arts Institute which calls for the design of large monumental works, was evidently not suited to the feminine mind. A number also found mathematics too difficult.

"Yet, I am convinced that if women are trained in accordance with their natural aptitudes rather than fitted into a masculine program, they can have an unusual success in designing the more domestic types of buildings.

"With proper training and experience in construction and organization, many women would certainly be able to design and assist in the execution of city and country homes, apartment houses, clubs, inns and small hotels. The modern tenement and the small house depending so much on a knowledge of domestic organization is well within their sphere.

"If architectural courses for women have failed heretofore, it is logical to conclude that it is because of the wrong training in the wrong fields. In the new course we have frankly recognized women's limitations as well as their special abilities."

No Wives in Irish Schools

MARRIED women will not be eligible for recognition in any public capacity in the national schools of the Irish Free State after April 1, the Education Department of that country has recently decreed. Teachers already in the service are exempt from this ruling, however.

This is less severe than the penalty imposed on the marriage by the city of Belfast, however, where women teachers already in the service are reqnired to resign on marriage.

Commenting on the injustice, Dora Mellone in the January issue of the *International Women's News* says:

"The attack on the Married Woman Teacher has recommenced in Northern Ireland, and the first success has been scored by the Education Committee of the Belfast City Council. Hitherto under the Northern Ireland Education Act, resignation on marriage has not been compulsory, under the plea of economy, however, the City Council at its meeting on December 1, carried a resolution requiring women teachers to resign on marriage. The main arguments were two; the large number of young teachers unemployed and the injustice of allowing two members of a household to be 'in gainful employment.' It is obvious that too many young women are entering the teaching profession; unless Northern Ireland will follow the advice of Sir George Newman in his last report on the 'Health of the School Child.'

"This authority urges more schools on open air lines, and in this way there could be more schools without a corresponding increasing expense. But it is easier to dismiss the married women 'by replacing teachers with maximum salaries, by young teachers commencing with the lowest grades.' 'If a girl gets married all her attention should be devoted to her home and rearing her children'—'Just as if they were chickens,' commented one listener, but then she was unmarried too. For the present nothing more can be done. The Ulster Teacher's Union has made every possible protest, and the married woman had better employ her leisure in taking cookery lessons at the Technical School. . . .

"'Si vous voulez économiser cherchez la femme.' The main industries in Northern Ireland are shipbuilding and agriculture, neither carried on in 'factories and workshops.' Linen manufacture and the making up trades in normal times, occupy large numbers of women and girls. Very great improvements in the administration of the factories and workshop acts, were effected by the women who held the post of factory inspector, only one woman being allowed in the service at a time. Now under the pressure of economy the post of woman factory inspector has been abolished. There is a slight revival in the linen industry, and the need to reduce working costs whenever possible increases the temptation to disregard factory regulations. A recent case of overtime work without payment of the legal wages is evidence of this. It remains to be seen if the present high standard of the administration of the factory acts can be maintained without the service of a woman.

"In the Irish Free State, as elsewhere, work for disarmament has been the main occupation of the women's societies. A committee, formed for the purpose, has had charge of collecting signatures for the declaration and the work has been carried on with activity. Meetings have been organized by the Irish League of Nations Society in co-operation with various women's societies. Dr. Hilda Clarke addressed a well-attended meeting in Dublin on the question and a certain amount of press work has been done.

"The agitation for provision of school meals is still carried on and the prevailing distress makes the need increasingly urgent. Irish education is based on one session day. This means that the principal meal of the day — when there is one—is left too late. For years doctors and women's societies have been trying to effect a change in the school hours so that the children may have some hot food during the school period. In the country this is at once more necessary and more difficult than in the towns. The children often come considerable distances and the older school buildings often have no provision for even the simplest cooking. Arrangements have been made in many places for cocoa, and it is hoped more will be done during the present winter."

The magazine further comments:

"It is interesting—on this question of

marriage — to compare the position of women teachers in France and in Great Britain and Ireland.

"In France, not only does the government maintain at their post the married women teachers, but these are allowed generous leaves of absence for pregnancy and confinement. On the other hand, there are no unemployed unmarried women teachers, as in this country. As Dora Mellone points out, everything depends on the method of recruiting the teachers.

"In England and Northern Ireland there are several varied types of women's training colleges. Many students are scholars, but there are also a good many who pay for their board and tuition. So that a college is a commercial venture, whose funds go up and down according to the number of students. These generally leave with their degree, but without a definite promise of employment.

"In France the position is quite different. All the training colleges are State institutions, and all provide board and tuition to their students free of charge. They are admitted after a competitive examination when only a definite number of students are taken—and this number generally coincides in each 'department' with the number of vacant posts in the teaching profession—for the year. The result is that the standard is high and unemployment is unknown.

"Besides, there is only *one* union of teachers for men and women alike, for the defense of corporate interests. It frequently happens that men and women teachers inter-marry, so their interests are identical; their salaries are on the same scale also."

Are You Happily Married?

By Emma Wold

A review of GETTING A DIVORCE, by Isabel Drummond, Member of the Philadelphia Bar and of the National Woman's Party, and a former Assistant Solicitor of Philadelphia. (Alfred A. Knopf. $5.00.)

DIVORCE, as well as marriage, is an adventure, albeit grey and bleak. Of this you are certain when you read Isabel Drummond's "Getting a Divorce." This book does not try to rub off the glamorous sheen that invests marriage. It does not attempt to portray how tragically the beauty and peace of life may, under circumstances, slip through one's fingers. It only directs the way, when one must enter upon the unhappy adventure of getting unmarried.

Of few legal subjects is it so difficult to speak by the book as of divorce. Our law of divorce is not hewn from the rock of ecclesiastical law alone; it is not a heritage of the common law; though a matter of statute, it is not the fruit entirely of legislative labor. It is a web woven of all these, and more, in an attempt to make humanity as well as justice a chief end of the law. It is judge-made law, as well as legislature-made law. If, as Mr. Justice Holmes declares, "the law tries to embody things that men most believe and want," our laws on divorce reflect marked variations in beliefs and urges in our different States. In a few jurisdictions, the laws reflect the strong influence of the church which early set up the idea that marriage is a sacrament from which nothing can wholly release a believer. In many jurisdictions they reflect the influences of those sturdy Puritans of Old England who were captured by the ideas of the Protestant reformers. Indeed, strange as it appears, it may be shown that the commonwealths settled by the Puritans and their descendants in the United States early became "the chief abodes of divorce," to use the phrase of an early writer on the divorce evil. Still other jurisdictions have made marriage and divorce both a matter of business. Variations and mutations meet the legal eye on every hand.

Take, for instance, the important subject of residence requirements. Here is Nevada, jauntily holding its own against the competition of other States and permitting a seeker for freedom from marital bonds to enter its courts after living in the State but six weeks. Here is Arkansas, frankly bidding for a part of our extensive divorce business and opening its courts to a resident of two months who may win a decree within another month. Here is Idaho, over the veto of its Governor, offering its gracious aid to a resident of ninety days — all too timidly, as the event proved when the nearest competitor cut its residence to six weeks. On the other hand, there stands Connecticut, ridding itself of its one-time odium of easy divorce, requiring a residence of three years if the cause for divorce arose out of the State; and, by its side, stands Massachusetts, so carefully guarding its courts that a petitioner must have lived in the State for five years before he may approach the goddess of justice. And between them fall the large number of States that will aid and abet in the termination of marriage only those who have dwelt within their borders a year or two years.

Or take the matter of grounds for divorce. From South Carolina which will have none of this evil undoing of the marriage knot, or New York and the District of Columbia which recognize but one cause for absolute divorce, that breach of fidelity held by many to be the only ground having Biblical sanction, one need but step over the border to come to States that find seven, ten, twelve, fourteen, sound causes for putting man and wife asunder. Surely the distance is wide, if not unbridgeable, between what men most believe and want in New York and what men of the same race, culture, and thought want and believe in Massachusetts with its eight causes, or the State of Washington with its full complement of causes, — adultery, desertion, cruelty, drunkenness, imprisonment for crime, non-support, insanity, living apart for a specified time—all liberally construed to ease a trying matrimonial venture.

Or, for further illustration of variations, take the matter of the validity of the divorce decree. A divorce may be a divorce in one State and not in another. It may be a complete divorce and yet be followed by a marriage that is not valid, and by what a multiplicity of surprising and unhappy consequences! Again, there is the unending (literally unending) question of alimony, or the perturbing one of property, the bitter one of costs, and the more bitter one of the children—all questions affected more or less by the sex of the parties.

A revelation these laws may be of what men believe and want. They make sadly difficult the problem of the man and wife who face the necessity of becoming unmarried. What State will best fit my individual case? What will it cost? Can I get alimony or must I pay it? Who gets the property, small or great, we have accumulated? Will my husband have a right to our children? How far will my wife be required to help support the children? These and other questions arise to make divorce a serious problem. These are the questions that "Getting a Divorce" attempts to answer.

Miss Drummond aptly remarks in her preface, "It is not the purpose of this volume to encourage divorce; rather it is believed that the book will serve as a sort of household ballast." She has set up for herself an object and a hope—the object, to make clear to wives and husbands the laws governing marriage and divorce; the hope, that lawyers will find the book useful for quick reference. She has achieved the remarkable feat of giving within a short space a very clear and complete and, withal interesting, account of an important legal subject.

For those who are interested in the human and social as well as legal aspects of marriage and divorce in the United States, part one of the book gives a gen-

eral account of marital behavior and misbehavior, the procedure for annulment or divorce, the reasons for alimony and its peculiarities, the principles underlying the award of custody and support of children. It tells of divorce in those distant lands whither Americans have been resorting in search of broader grounds for divorce and less publicity—France, Mexico, Cuba. It discusses that vexatious but most important subject of "conflict of laws," those differences that give rise to such questions as, If I win a divorce, will it be valid wherever I may happen to go? If my alimony order is not paid, can I get a court in any State to enforce it? Are the orders for the custody and support of my children enforceable everywhere? All this is illuminated with case illustrations, apt quotations, a ready and humorous phrase.

For those who have a specific problem and wish to be guided before seeking the advice of lawyers, or for lawyers themselves who wish a volume for quick reference, part two of the book gives summaries of the laws of each of the forty-eight States and the District of Columbia with full case citations. Here one may find summaries also of the laws of some foreign countries.

A literary traveller, disappointed because the reality of a city differed from that pictured in a book, impatiently declared, "Guide-books are the least reliable books of all literature." Miss Drummond's book does not fall within this class of guide-books. It is informative; it is complete; it is up-to-date; it is interesting; it is even picturesque. In short, it is all that its title tells you it is, a book on getting a divorce.

Woman Cabinet Minister

AN INTERESTING interview with Finland's first woman Cabinet Minister, Muna Sillanpaa, appearing some time ago in *The Vote*, revealed the following facts about Minister Sillanpaa and about Finland and its women:

She is proud of her country as the first in the world to have extended the suffrage to women in 1907. In that year nineteen women were elected to the Diet, among them Muna Sillanpaa, who has retained her seat from that time onwards. From 1907, 20 per cent. of the members of the Finnish Diet have been women.

In the Social Democratic Government of 1927-28 she was appointed Minister of Social Affairs. During this administration the law making it impossible for women to act as judges was overthrown. With the exception of the army and the police force, all posts in Finland are open to women. A law is now being passed in Parliament that women shall be trained to handle cases, both of a criminal and moral nature, in which women are concerned. At present a few women in a semiofficial capacity handle children's cases and conduct investigations in cases where offences against women are involved.

Men and women teachers of equal status receive equal pay for equal work. And even more surprising is the fact that in the printing trade (a male stronghold in English countries) women are trained with men, and receive the same rate of pay. In factories and various other classes of work great differences in pay, as between men and women, exist. Women are graded as assistants, with very small pay, and are debarred from learning the better-paid work. There are no restrictions on women's labor. Muna Sillanpaa attributes the large measure of freedom and opportunity Finnish women enjoy to the national struggle against Russia, in which women and men united. Finland was part of Russia until 1918. Women share in much of the laborious work done exclusively by men in other parts of the world. Illiteracy among Finnish women is practically unknown.

In principle, inequalities between men and women in Finland do not exist, but in practice it is not quite so. Muna Sillanpaa's own party is eager to improve the conditions of women's labor and to amend the marriage laws which have already greatly improved since the enfranchisement of women. She is at present devoting much attention to vocational education for women. Through women's efforts elementary and more advanced schools for domestic training have been founded. Without vocational training women are often forced to take up work of a low grade, such as street sweeping; vocational training improves their status.

Unemployment is rife, and obscuring all other problems, and Muna Sillanpaa is studying measures of relief employed in other countries with a view to arranging assistance for unemployed women in Finland. A vocational school, supported by the city government, is in progress, where pupils receive a small payment for attending. In Finland there is no unemployment benefit. The Government provides what work it can at a low rate of pay, and those who cannot procure it have to fend for themselves.

The First Woman Bank Cashier

By Gretchen Dick

IN constantly presenting the achievements of the women of today in world affairs, in art, commerce, government and internationals, we are almost gilding the lily, for the woman of today is not merely a woman, she is an individual. Now we speak of this "woman-individual" as a person with this or that capacity in the same way we speak of a man, but it was not always so. Yesterday it was a man's world, today it is the individual person's, male or female; tomorrow will prove which it is to be.

However, the present-day emancipation of women is due to the courageous pioneers of yester-year. Among them are certain outstanding names, many of which we know well. A trio of contemporaries born in the eighteen-hundreds, all three of whom lived between 1820 and 1910, are Mary Baker Eddy, Florence Nightingale and Sarah Josepha Hale. We know much of Sarah Hale, who was the first woman to assemble the consent of the States to the degree of making Thanksgiving Day a national holiday, though it took her seventeen long years to achieve this unified day of gratitude. Mrs. Hale edited *Godey's Lady's Book*, which, until 1880, had the widest circulation of any monthly publication in the world. Thus we know her as the first woman editor in this country.

Mary Baker Eddy is famed as a religionist in establishing the science which she named after the founder of the Christian religion, calling it Christian Science, with its millions of followers and some three thousand churches scattered throughout the world. Probably Mrs. Eddy's greatest interest to non-religionists is the establishment of the only international daily newspaper, a feat in the newspaper world which no man has yet equaled, and as a magazine writer, author and founder of the *Sentinel and Journal*.

Another woman who lived while this famous trio were enlarging the scene of women's activities was Sarah Frances McGrew Dick, who became famous in the banking system in the last century when women were almost an unknown quantity in the world of finance. She had a remarkable record of 32 years of service and had the distinction of being the only woman cashier of a national bank in the United States. A greater distinction might have been hers, for when the Woman's Bank of New York was organized she was asked to be its president. In her great modesty Mrs. Dick refused the honor, preferring to remain with her own

home institution, so that Huntington, Indiana, could boast of having the only woman cashier of a national bank in the United States.

Sarah McGrew was considered a curiosity; in fact, almost a freak, because of her desire to go into a public institution back in the eighteen-seventies when the world was still definitely a man's world. In the first place, women were not being accepted in banking institutions; and secondly, Miss McGrew was the daughter of a well-known citizen who was the cashier and subsequently became the president of the bank and a society girl of culture and wealth still in her teens. However, she wiped out these old-fashioned obstacles and was appointed assistant cashier of the First National Bank at the age of 19, in 1873, and then was made cashier in 1881, succeeding her own father in the position, and was also chosen as one of the directors. This started her famous banking career, which lasted 32 years.

Those who were associated with Mrs. Dick in a business way admired her competency because she refused to have any assistant, dispatching her business in quick and accurate transactions. She became an expert in handling currency and coin. She had a capacity for keeping the bank clear of crowding, even during the rush of business, despite the fact that she wrote the notes, drafts and deposit certificates. She computed the interest on collections, cashed checks and discounted papers with such swiftness that it was decided to collect statistics on her work. At the close of the day's business she had handled $54,000 in small accounts, made over 600 distinct transactions in 360 minutes. Deducting her lunch hour, it was estimated that she had taken 35 seconds for each transaction, and at the end the cash balanced to a cent. She wrote a rapid, bold, heavy hand, so that her signature on United States paper currency was startling to every observer. Her family still treasure some of the dollar bills and bills of other denominations which bear her signature.

Miss McGrew was not in the least of the masculine type. Her extreme femininity caused people to wonder at her public work. She married one of the wealthiest and most prominent merchants of Huntington, Julius Dick, who subsequently became president of the Citizens' State Bank.

Mrs. Dick's marriage did not interfere with her work at the bank, although she became a society leader in a beautiful and spacious home which was built on a high hill near the city. Because of her unique position as a society and business woman, much was written about her as one of the curiosities of the '70's and '80's. When Mrs. Dick had served twenty-five years in the bank, every newspaper of importance throughout the world carried a story and picture of an American woman of only 44 years of age who had served in public life for a quarter of a century.

Press Comment

Seek to Form Advisory Board of League

European Edition Chicago Tribune, Paris, France, January 24, 1932.

FOR the first time in the history of the League of Nations women have approached it with a definite request to form one of its official advisory committees.

Mrs. John J. White of New York and Miss Muna Lee, both officers of the National Woman's Party of the United States, of which Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont is president, left Paris last night for Geneva to back up a proposal to the League to transform the Woman's Consultative Committee on Nationality, created last January, into a permanent advisory committee of the League, with enlarged powers extending to all questions primarily concerning women. The League Council will probably take action on this proposal at its meeting tomorrow.

At Geneva, Mrs. White and Miss Lee will collaborate with Miss Alice Paul towards the formation of the proposed committee. The present Consultative Committee on Nationality consists of 16 delegates from eight international Feminist organizations.

Its activity was limited to investigation of means of obtaining Equal Rights for women in questions of nationality, on which subject it has made a report to the League. While the scope of the new committee's work depends on the powers given by the League, there are many problems primarily affecting women, such as certain labor conditions which, it may reasonably be supposed, the committee will be empowered to handle.

During the Disarmament Conference the National Woman's Party of the United States will work in conjunction with the women's organizations of other parties. The American women envoys declined to make any statement on the disarmament question, beyond declaring that every agreement between nations affects women as well as men. It is also evident, however, that women are just as much divided individually on the question of disarmament as men.

Discrimination

The Open Forum, Los Angeles, Calif., January 9, 1932.

THE largest department store on Main street is reported, on good authority, as putting many of its women employes on half time and replacing a large number with men. The economy of the latter move is that the males can be, and are, worked from twelve to fourteen hours a day, while the State law limits women to eight. At the time of the passage of that statute some women recognized the menace in it in favor of men in the scramble for jobs. Any job is better than none. They must eat. The law should apply to men as well as women. It's a wonderful system.

Feminist Notes

Austria on Guard

THE *Oestreicherin,* organ of the Alliance of Austrian Women's Clubs, ushers in the new year with an appeal to its readers and friends to support the journal and cause for which it stands all the more stoutly in these adverse times. Says the editor: "The determined stand by women for their rights is more necessary today than ever before, for our painfully attained position is heavily threatened by the bad times. A lively opposition, both open and secret, is being manifested to the professional activities of married women; and even the services of unmarried women are being refused in many quarters, only low paid and unimportant jobs being offered to women.

"The demands of women for equal opportunity in work is being endangered and also their desire for the growth of peaceful understanding between nations. New tariff walls are being erected, imports restricted, and free intercourse between States is made difficult, even forbidden. Instead of united efforts on the part of all countries to lighten the common misery, a small-souled particularism is being exhibited, which can only lead to renewed danger of war. It is the duty of women to combat this spirit of narrowness and exclusiveness and to oppose to it the demand for cultural and industrial solidarity."

Praise for "Washington's Mayor"

REPRESENTATIVE MARY T. NORTON of New Jersey, chairman of the District of Columbia House Committee,

and thus termed "Mayor of Washington," is an outstanding symbol of Feminism to Representative Ruth Bryan Owen of Florida.

Representative Owen said recently: "Whenever Mrs. Norton goes by, I feel as though a flag were passing, a Feminist flag." Mrs. Owen revealed that Mrs. Norton's sole reason for accepting the arduous chairmanship of the District Committee was "because it was the first time a chairmanship was ever offered to a woman and I (Mrs. Norton) felt that I would be failing all women if I refused it."

Mrs. Owen on the same occasion paid high tribute to her own mother. She said that every time any one praised the achievements of her father, William Jennings Bryan, she wished that he might have seen the double desks of her mother and father, side by side in their Nebraska home, with their occupants working away dealing with all problems together.

Women in Aviation

OF THE total of 17,739 licensed pilots in the United States registered with the Department of Commerce's Aeronautics Branch on January 1, 1932, 532 were women.

On that date there were also 14 women holding glider licenses and five women registered with the department as aircraft mechanics.

The total number of glider license holders—men and women—for the nation is 267, and the total of aircraft mechanics is 9,016.

Government Honors Her

OLGA RUDEL-ZEYNEK has been awarded the honorary gold medal of the Austrian Republic in recognition of her services in the field of social welfare.

Other honors and responsibilities given to Frau Rudel-Zeynek include her appointment to the Board of International Migration service as Austrian representative. For many years she has been active in her work in connection with the Board of International Child Welfare.

Department Head

YVONNE ROUSEL has been recently appointed head of a department in the French Ministry of Labor. This is the first time the post has ever been given to a woman.

News from the Field

National Council Meets

A MEETING of the National Council of the National Woman's Party was held at headquarters in Washington, D. C., Friday, February 19, at 7 P. M. Preceding the meeting the Council members dined together informally at Alva Belmont House. Reports of officers and committees and routine business consumed the evening until nearly midnight, when the Council adjourned. Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, national chairman, presided over the meeting. Those present in addition to Mrs. Wiley were Mrs. Dwight Clark, Maud Younger, Burnita Shelton Matthews, Nina E. Allender, Elsie Hill, Laura Berrien, Mrs. Merritt O. Chance, Doris Stevens and Edith Houghton Hooker.

Maryland Branch March Calendar

A BUSINESS meeting of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party will be held at headquarters, 19 West Chase street, Baltimore, Maryland, Tuesday, March 1, at 3 P. M., for the purpose of formulating plans for the jury service campaign and for the transaction of routine business. After the meeting Laura McClelland will serve tea. On Tuesday, March 15, Elsa Doetch, the first accredited woman auditor in Maryland, will speak at an headquarters meeting at 3 P. M. on "The Function of the Auditor in Relation to the Present Crisis." Ida M. Hathaway will be hostess.

The regular monthly dinner of the Business and Professional Women's Council will be held at the Hotel Stafford on Tuesday, March 22, at 6 P. M.

During the week of March 28-April 2 Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, chairman of the National Council of the Woman's Party, will address several meetings on the Eastern Shore. On Thursday, March 31, she will address the faculty and students of Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland, as the guest speaker of the assembly. During her stay in Chestertown Mrs. Wiley will be entertained at the college.

A Good Intelligence Test

UNDER the caption "A Milestone in Feminism" the King Features Syndicate recently ran the following series of questions and answers about Doris Stevens in hundreds of newspapers throughout the country:

QUESTIONS

1—What American woman has been named for an international post never before held by one of her sex?

2—What is the American Institute of International Law?

3—What is the particular significance of Doris Stevens' nomination?

4—With what activity has she been identified for many years?

5—Did her woman suffrage work ever result in "martyrdom"?

6—What were her activities after women won the vote?

7—What is the Inter-American Commission of Women of which she is chairman?

ANSWERS

1—Doris Stevens, chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, has been nominated (which is tantamount to being elected) to succeed Elihu Root in the American Institute of International Law. Mr. Root becomes honorary president.

2—The institute is composed of the five leading publicists of each of the twenty-one American countries. Among its functions the institute acts as legal advisor for the Pan-American Union.

3—Never before has a woman been admitted to membership in any international juridical body.

4—She always has been an ardent worker in the cause of Feminism. In 1915 she organized the First National Convention for Women, which met at the Panama-Pacific Exposition that year.

5—In 1917 she was sentenced to 60 days' imprisonment for attempting to petition President Wilson on behalf of national suffrage. On several other occasions her ardent work for woman suffrage brought her perilously close to the law.

6—She became identified with Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, a leader of the Woman's Party. This group worked for Equal Rights as between men and women, in all phases of life. Later Miss Stevens' interest turned to international affairs.

7—The Commission was created by the Pan-American Conference in Havana in 1929. It was the result of a resolution passed at the conference and authorizing a study of "means of abolishing the constitutional and legal incapacities of women for the purpose of securing the same civil and political rights as enjoyed by men."

Dr. White to Speak

DR. WILLIAM ALANSEN WHITE, in charge of St. Elizabeth's, the Government hospital for the mentally ill, who is an internationally known psychiatrist, will be the speaker on Sunday afternoon, March 6, at 4.15, at Alva Belmont House, 144 B street N. E., Washington, D. C. Dr. White's topic will be "Men and Women and Equal Rights."

Jury Duty for Women in Hawaii

DELEGATE VICTOR HOUSTON of Hawaii has reintroduced his bill to permit women to serve on juries in the island. An identical bill passed the House last session, but failed of final passage in the Senate.

DAY PRINTING COMPANY
PUBLICATIONS AND BOOKS
600 East Lombard Street
Baltimore, Md.